

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the Abstract with the following new Abstract:

A method to implement a column interleaving function is disclosed. In a first step a number of memories equal to the maximum number of columns in the interleaver function are provided. A stream of data entities is input, which are successively written into a memory, until all memories are completely filled or until all data entities are written. A selection and permutation is then performed on the memories, after which the data entities in the permuted memories are read out in a memory-by-memory fashion.